

Message Text

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EUR - MR SPRINGSTEEN

S/ S - MR. ELIOT

L/ EUR- MR. SMALL

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053672

E. O. 11652, GDS, DECLAS 12-31, 1975

TAGS: PFOR IT

SUBJECT: CSCE: TREATMENT OF INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS

1. DURING CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, MARCH 21,
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA SAID GOI IS VERY CONCERNED
ABOUT TREND OF THINKING WITHIN ALLIANCE ON CONCEPT OF
INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS. ITALY FEELS THAT NATO
ALLIES ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT ON HOW THIS ISSUE SHOULD
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BE TREATED IN CWCE, AND SOME APPARENTLY FEEL THAT IT IS NOT A FUNDAMENTAL MATTER. ROME, ON OTHER HAND, ASCRIBES THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO TREATMENT OF INVOLABILITY, SINCE AS ALLIANCE APPROACHES HARD- CORE OF NEGOTIATIONS, ISSUE COULD, IN VIEW OF ITS POTENTIAL FOR CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL LAW PRECEDENT THAT WOULD ONLY BENEFIT THE SOVIETS, HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY AND COULD AFFECT UNIFICATION OF EUROPE AS WELL. FOR THESE REASONS GOI IS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IT PERCEIVES AS QUOTE LIGHT- HEARTED UNQUOTE APPROACH TO ISSUE WITHIN ALLIANCE.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH SAID THAT WITHOUT LINKAGE TO CONCEPT OF NON- USE OF FORCE, INVOLABILITY OF FRONTIERS CONCEPT IS UNACCEPTABLE AND COULD BE USED BY SOVIETS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE IN MATTERS SUCH AS FOUR- POWER RIGHTS IN GERMANY AND BERLIN AND RIGHT TO BROADCAST FREELY ACROSS FRONTIERS, I. E., RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY.

AMBASSADOR ORTONA ASKED WHETHER EVEN IF THE TWO CONCEPTS WERE LINKED, THE EFFECT MIGHT NOT BE TO BAR REUNIFICATION OF DIVIDED STATES. DEPUTY SECRETARY REMARKED THAT IF THE PARTIES WERE IN AGREEMENT ON UNIFICATION, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM; THE POINT IS TO AVOID FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE, AND IF INVOLABILITY OF FRONTIERS IS COMBINED WITH NON- USE OF FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE, THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY. FURTHERMORE, OTHER PEACEFUL BORDER CHANGES SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED. DEPUTY SECRETARY CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE FELT WE ARE IN FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH GOI ON THIS ISSUE.

3. BEFORE DEPARTING, AMBASSADOR ORTONA EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT ALLIES NOT ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR TOO SOON, A POINT ON WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AGREED. ROGERS

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